

Science News

November 2006

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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are already in our 2nd Marking Period! As with every new quarter, students start this marking period off with a clean slate. Their first grades will come from our new unit: Kinematics. We are beginning by determining the speed of a bubble. We will then move on to study different forms of energy and apply these principles to building a roller coaster. This unit should be an exciting one.

In the last month, we studied the physics of flight. We prepared for our “mission to Mars” at the Challenger Space Center in Alexandria, VA. Both eighth grade classes had successful missions. Each class came up with a patch that represented them as the Nysmith class of 2007. We are proud to say that our space mission patches are now hanging on the wall at the Challenger Center. We have also been studying vectors and free-body force diagrams. While we started with questions like: “Well, aren’t those just arrows?” and “Isn’t a force just when someone pushes something?”, we are excited to see the progress your students have made. We are moving away from using protractors and rulers, to using trigonometry to solve our vector problems! Finally, we are culminating this unit with a trip to the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Center in Dulles, VA. Students will have a chance to tour the new center, as well as perform a lab on the forces of flight.

Looking ahead, students should begin fine-tuning their science fair projects. Supplies should be purchased by the end of the month. Those students who are growing things should begin growing now!

Lastly, we would like to say thank-you for the adorable Halloween gifts. We really appreciate the thought, as well as the continued support you give us as we tackle physics with your students. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive month!

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Paton and Luba Presnetsova

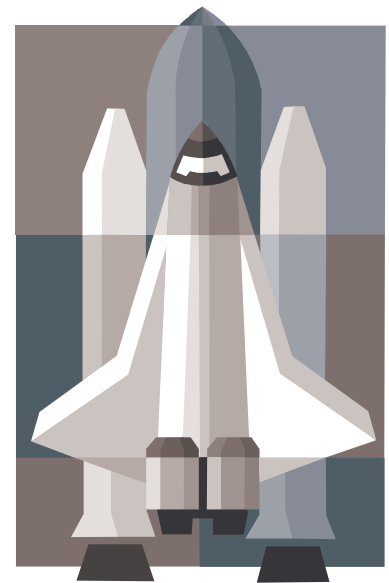
UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11.01 Marking Period 2 Begins
- 11.02 Udvar-Hazy Center Trip
- 11.08 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11.09 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 11.10 No School

Science Supply Donations:

Thank you for all the Wish List items you have collected for us. Our room is looking more like a recycling center than a science lab! We are no longer looking for donations from the Science Wish List distributed last month. However, we are looking for:

- Film Canisters with inverted lids (i.e. Fuji brand)
- Small 8 oz. yogurt containers (~50)



Contact Information:

Please feel free to contact either of us if you should have any questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you.

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